### IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA ATLANTA DIVISION

JOYCE MARIE GRIGGS,	
Plaintiff,	
v.  AMERIQUEST MORTGAGE  COMPANY, and JOHN DOES 1-10,	CIVIL ACTION FILE NO. 1:06CV3147-CAP-LTW
Defendants.	

### **MOTION TO DISMISS**

COMES NOW Defendant Ameriquest Mortgage Company ("Ameriquest") and pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(6), moves to dismiss Plaintiff's Complaint on the ground that it fails to state any claims against Ameriquest upon which relief can be granted. While it is unclear from the Complaint what claims Plaintiff is actually asserting, the allegations in the Complaint are so vague and uncertain that they fail to provide the basis for any claims against Ameriquest and Ameriquest is unable to frame an appropriate response to the Complaint as presently drafted. In support of this Motion, Ameriquest relies on all pleadings of record, Ameriquest's Memorandum in Support and document attached thereto, filed contemporaneously herewith.

WHEREFORE, for the reasons stated in Ameriquest's Memorandum in Support of Motion to Dismiss, Ameriquest respectfully requests that this Court dismiss the Complaint, and this action in its entirety, with prejudice. If the Court is not inclined to dismiss some or all of the claims in the Complaint, Ameriquest requests in the alternative, pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(e), that the Court order Plaintiff to re-plead and provide a more definite statement of any claims not dismissed.

Respectfully submitted this 8th day of January, 2007.

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### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I electronically filed the foregoing MOTION TO DISMISS with the Clerk of Court using the CM/ECF system which will automatically send an email notification of such filing to the following attorney of record:

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Plaintiff,	
V.	CIVIL ACTION FILE NO. 1:06CV3147-CAP-LTW
AMERIQUEST MORTGAGE COMPANY, and JOHN DOES 1-10,	
Defendants.	) ) )

#### MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO DISMISS

COMES NOW Defendant Ameriquest Mortgage Company ("Ameriquest"), and respectfully shows the Court the following as its Memorandum in Support of Motion to Dismiss:

### I. INTRODUCTION

The Motion to Dismiss should be granted because Plaintiff has failed to state any claims against Ameriquest. In fact, the allegations in the Complaint are so vague and unclear that it is very difficult to determine what claims Plaintiff is trying to assert against Ameriquest. Plaintiff's allegations are insufficient to provide Ameriquest with the proper notice required by the Federal Rules and this Motion is brought largely on Ameriquest's educated guesses as to what claims Plaintiff intends to assert. Because Plaintiff has failed

to provide the necessary factual allegations to support any of her purported claims against Ameriquest, Plaintiff's entire Complaint should be dismissed. In the alternative, if the Court is not inclined to dismiss the Complaint, Ameriquest respectfully requests that the Court order Plaintiff to provide a more definite statement of her claims under Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(e).

### II. SUMMARY OF PLAINTIFF'S FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS AND CLAIMS1

While the Complaint lacks specifically enumerated counts and/or claims and is very difficult to understand, Plaintiff possibly asserts a kitchen sink of claims against Ameriquest arising out of a loan Ameriquest made to her, including, possibly, claims for alleged (1) negligent hiring/supervision; (2) false advertising; (3) failure to honor a rescission of a loan; (4) credit defamation; (5) deceptive and unfair business practices; (6) fraud; (7) falsifying a loan application; (8) violation of "federal and state predatory lending" laws; (9) breach of contract; (10) race/gender discrimination; (11) intentional infliction of emotional distress; (12) RICO; (13) unjust enrichment; and (14) injunctive relief to prevent foreclosure of Plaintiff's home. (See generally Plaintiff's Complaint). Instead of providing a factual foundation to support her claims, Plaintiff resorts to

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All facts recited herein are taken, or extrapolated, from the Complaint. For purposes of a Motion to Dismiss under Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(6), the well-pleaded factual allegations must be taken as true (legal conclusions are not taken as true). Ameriquest does not admit any of these allegations and only recites them herein to demonstrate that the Complaint should be dismissed.

conclusory allegation after conclusory allegation that do not contain any real substance or detail to support her claims. Plaintiff's Complaint is so incoherent that Ameriquest cannot reasonably or adequately respond because it is unclear what Plaintiff contends that Ameriquest did wrong. The entire Complaint is based on conclusory assertions, not well-pleaded facts, and fails to meet the requisite pleading standard of Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(6).

### III. STANDARD OF REVIEW

A motion to dismiss for failure to state a claim under Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(6) should be granted when it appears that the plaintiff can prove no set of facts in support of her claim that would entitle her to relief. See Linder v. Portocarrero, 963 F.2d 332, 334 (11th Cir. 1992). "Although a plaintiff is not held to a very high standard in a motion to dismiss for failure to state a claim, some minimal pleading standard does exist." Wagner v. Daewoo Heavy Industries Am. Corp., 289 F.3d 1268, 1270 (11th Cir. 2002), rev'd on other grounds, 314 F.3d 541 (11th Cir. 2002). The Federal Rules require a "short and plain statement of the claim that will give the defendant fair notice of what the plaintiff's claim is and the grounds upon which it rests. Roe v. Aware Woman Center for Choice, Inc., 253 F.3d 678 (11th Cir. 2001); see also Fed. R. Civ. P. 8. "Pleadings must be something more than an ingenious academic exercise in the conceivable." Marsh v. Butler County, 268 F.3d 1014, 1037 (11th Cir. 2001).

In addition, unsupported conclusions of law or of mixed law and fact are not sufficient to withstand a dismissal under Rule 12(b)(6). See Marsh, 268 F.3d at 1036.

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"[C]onslusory allegations, unwarranted deductions of facts or legal conclusions masquerading as facts will not prevent dismissal." Oxford Asset Mgmt, Ltd. v. Jaharis, 297 F.3d 1182, 1188 (11th Cir. 2002). As this Court has held, "broad conclusory allegations are inadequate even under the liberal pleading rules of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure." Williams v. Lear Operations Corp., 73 F. Supp. 2d 1377, 1380-81 (N.D. Ga. 1999). To survive a motion to dismiss, "plaintiffs must do more than merely state legal conclusions; they are required to allege some specific factual bases for those conclusions face dismissal of their claims." Jackson v. Bellsouth Telecommunications, 372 F.3d 1250, 1262 (11th Cir. 2004); see also Roe v. Aware Woman Center for Choice, Inc., 253 F.3d 678 (11th Cir. 2001)(dismissing complaint which lacked any allegations, inferential or otherwise, regarding an essential element of plaintiff's claims).

### IV. ARGUMENT AND CITATION OF AUTHORITY

# A. The Complaint Should be Dismissed Because Plaintiff has Failed to State Any Claims Against Ameriquest.

Plaintiff has failed to state any claims against Ameriquest. Each of the purported "claims" appear in one or two paragraphs of conclusory allegations, none of which necessarily relate to one another. Such broad, conclusory allegations are inadequate even under the Federal Rules' liberal pleading requirements. See Williams, 73 F. Supp. 2d at 1382 ("The pleadings must nevertheless provide notice of the circumstances which give

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rise to the claim [and a] complaint which contains bare bones allegations that a wrong occurred and which does not plead any of the facts giving rise to the injury, does not provide adequate notice").

The Complaint consists only of vague references that Ameriquest harmed Plaintiff without providing any specifics about Ameriquest's alleged wrongdoing or the facts giving rise to Plaintiff's alleged injuries. In other words, Plaintiff's allegations fail to provide the "who, when, where, what, or how" of Ameriquest's alleged wrongdoing which would allow Ameriquest to adequately respond in good faith. Because the Complaint fails to specifically identify any claims against Ameriquest, or the factual basis for those claims, it unfairly forces Ameriquest to guess what it is that Plaintiff is actually suing for in this action. As shown below, because Plaintiff has failed to provide the necessary factual allegations to support any of her purported claims against Ameriquest, and thus fails to meet even the liberal pleading requirements set forth in the Federal Rules, the Complaint, and this entire action, should be dismissed.

# 1. Plaintiff has failed to state a claim for negligent hiring/supervision.

Plaintiff has failed to state a claim for negligent hiring/supervision. Plaintiff alleges that Ameriquest "breached [its] duty to Plaintiff by negligently training and failing to adequately train and supervise [its] employees and agents to comply with professional, industry wide best practices standards and by allowing [its] employees and

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agents to operate with such inadequate training which caused damage to Plaintiff." (Complaint, ¶ 11). Plaintiff also alleges that Ameriquest "failed to take reasonable steps to protect Plaintiff though [it] knew or should have known that [its] failure to adequately train [its] employees and agents would result in the detriment to Plaintiff." (Id.). Although Plaintiff attempts to plug in some of the apparent buzz words, she fails to plead any facts to describe what it was that Ameriquest did wrong, how Ameriquest breached any duties to her, or how the wrongdoing harmed Plaintiff. Without more, Ameriquest is not on notice of what Plaintiff contends it did wrong and Plaintiff has not stated a claim against Ameriquest for negligent hiring/supervision.

### 2. Plaintiff has failed to state a claim for false advertising.

To the extent she intended to, Plaintiff has failed to state a claim for false advertising. Plaintiff's only allegation to support this purported claim is that Ameriquest's "advertising and marketing techniques were harassing, oppressive, false and misleading" and that Ameriquest "used these materials to induce Plaintiff to enter into the transaction that was financially detrimental to Plaintiff..." (Complaint, ¶ 15). Plaintiff makes no factual allegations regarding Ameriquest's advertising and marketing techniques, nor does Plaintiff plead any facts to show how those techniques were oppressive and/or false or caused her damage. As with the other claims, Ameriquest is entitled to know the who, what, when, where, and how of this claim. Plaintiff's failure to provide any facts to

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support this claim demonstrates that she cannot provide any facts and requires it be dismissed.

### 3. Plaintiff has failed to state a claim for failing to honor a rescission of a loan.

Likewise, Plaintiff has failed to state a claim against Ameriquest for rescission of the loan. The sole allegation concerning this purported claim is that she "faxed a cancellation of the loan to Ameriquest employees who failed to cancel the loan." (Complaint, ¶ 16). Plaintiff gives no facts that would support her right to rescind the loan such as a Truth in Lending violation or fraud or mistake. See 15 U.S.C. § 1635; Smith v. American Fin. Sys., Inc., 737 F.2d 1549 (11th Cir. 1984); Potomac Leasing Co. v. Thrasher, 181 Ga. App. 883, 354 S.E.2d 210 (1987). Notably, although Plaintiff makes numerous references about a loan with Ameriquest, Plaintiff fails to make any basic allegations about this alleged loan, i.e., the date, amount, collateral, etc. Plaintiff fails to even allege that she obtained a loan with Ameriquest -- an essential element of a rescission claim, no matter the proffered legal theory supporting it. See Young v. Oak Leaf Builders, Inc., 277 Ga. App. 274, 626 S.E.2d 240 (2006). Without averring any facts to support a rescission, or even the basic fact that Plaintiff obtained a loan with Ameriquest, it is impossible for Plaintiff to state a claim for failure to honor a rescission of that loan.

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### 4. Plaintiff has failed to state a claim for defamation.

Plaintiff's purported claim for defamation also fails because of Plaintiff's inadequate pleading. This claim is based on the allegation that Ameriquest "placed the delinquencies on Plaintiff's credit report, thus damaging her credit and inability of getting another Mortgage Company to take out another mortgage to replace the Ameriquest Mortgage." (Complaint, ¶ 21). Plaintiff does not allege that any of the information supplied to consumer reporting agencies was false, nor does she allege that Ameriquest knew it was false, that it was made maliciously, or that she has incurred special damages. If Plaintiff intends to sue under the Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 1601, et seq. (the "FCRA"), she must allege how and when she notified Ameriquest of the allegedly inaccurate reporting, that Ameriquest breached the duties imposed under the FCRA after receiving notice of the alleged inaccurate reporting, and other facts to make out a claim under the FCRA. See 15 U.S. C. § 1681s-2(b). Without pleading these facts, Plaintiff has failed to state a claim against Ameriquest for credit defamation.

# 5. Plaintiff has failed to state claim for deceptive and unfair business practices.

Presumably to support her alleged claim for deceptive and unfair business practices, Plaintiff alleges that Ameriquest "engaged in illegal, unfair, unlawful, untrue, misleading and deceptive business practices in soliciting, inducing and closing Plaintiff's loan." (Complaint, ¶ 25). Plaintiff goes on to allege that Ameriquest "engaged in a

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persistent 'bait and switch'" by changing the terms of Plaintiff's loan at closing to Plaintiff's detriment. (Complaint, ¶ 26). Although the Complaint fails to reference a specific statute or common law principle, the above allegations could be interpreted as Plaintiff's attempt to assert a claim under Georgia's Fair Business Practices Act, O.C.G.A. §§ 10-1-390, et seq. (the "FBPA"). To the extent that Plaintiff is attempting to assert a claim under the FBPA, that claim fails for two reasons: (1) because it is based solely on the allegation that Ameriquest changed terms in connection with Plaintiff's loan transaction, and (2) because residential mortgage transactions are heavily regulated and the FBPA thus does not apply.<sup>2</sup>

First, the FBPA claim fails because the potential impact of Ameriquest's alleged conduct was solely upon Plaintiff and did not and could not harm the consuming public generally. All of Plaintiff's allegations concern Ameriquest's conduct toward Plaintiff. These allegations are insufficient to support a claim under the FBPA because the potential impact of Ameriquest's alleged conduct was solely upon Plaintiff, and could not be a source of damage to any other member of the consuming public. The Georgia Court of Appeals has explained this distinction as follows:

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As an initial matter, Plaintiff fails to allege that she made written notice of her claim under the FBPA as is required. As a prerequisite to filing any claim under the FBPA, a prospective plaintiff must send a prospective defendant "a written demand for relief, identifying the claimant and reasonably describing the unfair or deceptive act or practice relied upon and the injury suffered." O.C.G.A. § 10-1-399(b).

One may bring a private suit under the FBPA only if he is individually injured by the breach of a duty owed to the consuming public in general. O.C.G.A. § 10-1-399 does not encompass suits based upon allegedly deceptive or unfair acts or practices which occur in an essentially private transaction. In those circumstances, even though the plaintiff may be a "consumer" with regard to the transaction, if the deceptive or unfair act or practice had or has no potential for harm to the general consuming public, the allegedly wrongful act of the defendant was not made in the context of the consumer marketplace. Unless it can be said that the defendant's actions had or has potential harm for the consumer public the act or practice cannot be said to have "impact" on the consumer marketplace and any act or practice which is outside that context, no matter how unfair or deceptive, is not directly regulated by the FBPA. State of Ga. v. Meredith Chevrolet, 145 Ga. App. 8, 12 [(244 S.E.2d 15) (1978)]. When a "consumer" suffers damage as the result of an unfair or deceptive act or practice which had or has potential impact solely upon him and which is not and could not be a source of damage to any other member of the consuming public, there is no public interest to be served by proceeding under the FBPA, and the aggrieved party is relegated to pursuit of relief under other statutory or common law principles. Zeeman v. Black, [supra at 84-85, 273 S.E.2d 910]. The FBPA is no panacea for the congenital ills of the marketplace (and) does not instantly convert every alleged breach of contract into a violation of the (act). DeLoach v. Foremost Ins. Co., 147 Ga. App. 124, 125 (248 S.E.2d 193). Gross v. Ideal Pool Corp., 181 Ga. App. 483, 484-485(1), 352 S.E.2d 806. [Certain punctuation omitted and emphasis added].

Lynas v. Williams, 216 Ga. App. 434, 436, 454 S.E.2d 570, 573 (1995).

Zeeman v. Black, 156 Ga. App. 82, 273 S.E.2d 910 (1980), illustrates the application of the above-quoted principles. In Zeeman, purchasers of real property sued a realty company under the FBPA for an alleged misrepresentation made by the realty company relating to the purchased property. In upholding the summary judgment in

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favor of the defendant realty company, the Court of Appeals noted that the alleged misrepresentation was

made only to the [plaintiffs] and to no one else. While we have no doubt that a single instance of an unfair or deceptive act or practice is a sufficient predicate upon which to base a claim for damages under [the FBPA] if the public consumer interest would be served thereby, there is serious doubt that the misrepresentation in the instant case had or could have had impact on any other market than the [plaintiffs] . . . . Absent either public advertising or a misrepresentation such that the specifics of which, if repeated, could be harmful to future similarly situated buyers of real property, it is difficult to find sufficient 'public policy' to authorize resort to the FBPA.

Id., 156 Ga. App. at 86, 273 S.E.2d at 916.

Similarly, in <u>Borden v. Pope Jeep-Eagle, Inc.</u>, 200 Ga. App. 176, 407 S.E.2d 128 (1991), the plaintiff asserted an FBPA claim against the defendant in a transaction between the plaintiff and the defendant automobile dealer arising out of a simple interest car loan and the defendant's alleged misconduct relating to that loan. In upholding the directed verdict in favor of defendant, the Court of Appeals held that "[t]here is no evidence that the defendant's actions in this transaction had the potential for harming the general public. Defendant did not advertise simple interest contracts to the general public nor was there evidence that it was defendant's practice to sell cars promising simple interest installment loans and later attempt to dishonor those contracts." <u>Id.</u>, 200 Ga. App. at 177, 407 S.E.2d at 131. In the case at bar, Plaintiff has only alleged that Ameriquest harmed her specifically, not the consuming public generally. Therefore, the FBPA clearly does not support a claim under these allegations.

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Second, highly regulated mortgage transactions are not governed by the FBPA. The intent and express language of the FBPA preclude its application to home mortgage transactions like the one involved in this case because such transactions are subject to extensive state and federal regulation. See O.C.G.A. § 10-1-396(1). In fact, the Georgia Court of Appeals has unambiguously held that the General Assembly "intended that the Georgia FBPA have a restricted application only to the unregulated consumer marketplace and that the FBPA not apply in regulated area of activity." Chancellor v. Gateway Lincoln-Mercury, Inc., 233 Ga. App. 38, 45, 502 S.E.2d 759, 805 (1998); see also Brogdon v. National Healthcare Corp., 103 F. Supp. 2d 1322 (N.D. Ga. 2000). In Brogdon, Judge Murphy relying on Chancellor, analyzed the FBPA and its preemption clause as follows:

The FBPA is designed to "protect consumers and legitimate business enterprises from unfair or deceptive practices in the conduct of any trade or commerce in part or wholly in the state." § 10-1-391. Stated differently, "[t]he purpose of the Georgia FBPA is to protect consumers against that limited class in conduct of consumer transactions and consumer acts or practices in trade or commerce which involve 'unfair and deceptive practices' within the consumer marketplace." Chancellor v. Gateway Lincoln-Mercury, Inc., 233 Ga. App. 38, 43, 502 S.E.2d 799 (1998)....

The FBPA does not apply to "[a]ctions or transactions specifically authorized under laws administered by or rules and regulations promulgated by any regulatory agency of this state or the United States." § 10-1-396(1). Indeed, the legislature "intended that the Georgia FBPA have a restricted application only to the unregulated consumer marketplace and that the FBPA not apply in regulated areas of activity, because regulatory agencies provide protection or the ability to protect against the known evils in the area of the agency's expertise." Chancellor, 233 Ga. App. at 45, 502 S.E.2d 799.

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Accordingly the FBPA does not apply in extensively regulated areas of the marketplace such as investment account transactions, finance charges and required disclosures by lenders, and insurance transactions. Taylor v. Bear Stearns & Co., 572 F. Supp. 667, 675 (N.D. Ga. 1983) (holding allegations of unauthorized trades or churning not cognizable under FBPA); Chancellor, 233 Ga. App. at 45, 502 S.E.2d 799 ("area of finance charges, disclosure, and truth in lending falls outside the FBPA, except where expressly covered"); Ferguson v. United Ins. Co. of Am., 163 Ga. App. 282, 283, 293 S.E.2d 736 (1982) ("[I]nsurance transactions are among those types of transactions which are exempt from the Fair Business Practices Act.").

Brogdon, 103 F. Supp. 2d at 1336 (emphasis added). Judge Murphy dismissed the Plaintiff's FBPA claim asserted in a nursing home negligence case because the degree of care in nursing homes is regulated by state and federal agencies, and the FBPA therefore did not apply. <u>Id.</u> at 1336-37. The Court concluded its analysis of the FBPA by noting that <u>Chancellor</u> "observed that the General Assembly intended the FBPA to have a 'restricted application only to the unregulated consumer marketplace." <u>Id.</u> at 1337 (emphasis in original) (citing Chancellor, 233 Ga. App. at 45, 502 S.E.2d at 805).

The residential mortgage industry involved in the present case is more heavily regulated than the nursing home industry involved in <u>Brogdon</u> and transactions such as Plaintiff's loan are therefore not subject to the FBPA. Mortgage transactions are governed by a host of regulatory statutes including the Truth-in-Lending Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 1601, et seq., and Regulation Z, 12 C.F.R. § 226.1 (2004), the Real Estate Settlement and Procedures Act ("RESPA"), 12 U.S.C. §§ 2601 et seq., and Regulation X, 24 C.F.R. §§ 3500.1, et seq. Moreover, the very alleged violation that Plaintiff appears to complain

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about -- improprieties with Plaintiff's loan application -- is specifically regulated by RESPA. See 12 U.S.C. § 2602(3). Other state and federal laws and regulations potentially applicable to Ameriquest and the underlying mortgage loan transaction include without limitation the following: Georgia Residential Mortgage Act, O.C.G.A. §§ 7-1-1000, et seq.; Georgia Fair Lending Act, O.C.G.A. §§ 7-6A-1, et seq.; the Home Ownership and Equity Protection Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 1602(aa), 1639, and 1641(d); the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1691, et seq.; the Fair Housing Act, 42 U.S.C. § 3601 et seq.; and the Alternative Mortgage Transaction Parity Act, 12 U.S.C. § 3801, et seq.

Thus, the home mortgage industry is definitely <u>not</u> part of the "unregulated consumer marketplace" to which the Georgia Court of Appeals has held the application of the FBPA should be restricted. <u>See Chancellor</u>, 233 Ga. App. at 45. Courts have held the FBPA to be inapplicable to such regulated transactions as nursing home care, <u>Brogdon</u>, 103 F. Supp. 2d 1322, investment account transactions, <u>Taylor v. Bear Stearns & Co.</u>, 572 F. Supp. 667, 675 (N.D. Ga. 1983), automobile financing, <u>Chancellor</u>, 233 Ga. App. at 45, 502 S.E.2d at 799, and insurance transactions, <u>Ferguson v. United Ins. Co. of Am.</u>, 163 Ga. App. 282, 283, 293 S.E.2d 736 (1982). Similarly, this Court should hold that the FBPA is also inapplicable to Plaintiff's mortgage transaction with Ameriquest, which is already subject to multiple laws and regulations, and dismiss Plaintiff's Complaint.

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### 6. Plaintiff has failed to state a claim for violation of "federal and state predatory lending" laws.

Plaintiff alleges, in a conclusory fashion, that Ameriquest violated "federal and state predatory lending" laws. (Complaint, ¶ 34). Plaintiff fails to specifically state which statute(s) Plaintiff is claiming that Ameriquest violated. At the very least, Fed. R. Civ. P. 8 requires that Plaintiff give Ameriquest notice of the statue(s) that it has allegedly violated so that it can properly respond and/or prepare its defense. See Roe v. Aware Woman Center for Choice, Inc., 253 F.3d 678 (11th Cir. 2001). As it presently stands, Ameriquest cannot possibly respond to this claim because Plaintiff has not provided Ameriquest anything to respond to. The Georgia "predatory lending statute" is known as the Fair Lending Act, O.C.G.A. §§ 7-6A-7 et seq., and nothing in the Complaint suggests that Ameriquest violated it. There are several federal statutes designed to regulate mortgage lenders, as described above, but Ameriquest is left guessing what it is Plaintiff contends it violated, or how it violated it. Without at least identifying the statute(s) that she believes Ameriquest violated, Plaintiff has failed to meet even the liberal pleading requirements required by the Federal Rules. Accordingly, Plaintiff's purported attempt to assert a claim for violation of "federal and state predatory lending laws" must be dismissed.

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#### 7. Plaintiff has failed to state a claim for breach of contract.

To the extent that Plaintiff is attempting to state a claim for breach of contract, that claim fails for two reasons. First, as referenced above, Plaintiff fails to make the core allegation that she has a contract with Ameriquest. While Plaintiff refers to a loan, a mortgage loan involves different agreements, documents and disclosures, and as with the other claims in this case, Ameriquest is left guessing about what agreement Ameriquest allegedly breached. In addition, even if Plaintiff did allege the existence of a contract, Plaintiff failed to allege that Ameriquest breached any such contract. If Plaintiff claims Ameriquest breached the agreement to loan her money, she certainly seems to concede that Ameriquest loaned her the money. See Oden v. Pace Academy, 235 Ga. App. 648, 510 S.E.2d 326 (1998)(plaintiff failed to state a claim for breach of contract because no breach occurred). Ameriquest is entitled to know what contract Ameriquest allegedly breached, what provision(s) of said contract it allegedly breached, and what it allegedly did to breach the contract (not to mention how it damaged her). Without alleging these basics, Plaintiff has not stated a claim for breach of contract.

# 8. Plaintiff has failed to state a claim for falsifying a loan application.

Falsifying a loan application is not a tort under Georgia law in and of itself.

Plaintiff appears to attempt to assert such a claim wherein she alleges that Ameriquest

"falsified income stated on her loan application to qualify Plaintiff for a larger loan," and

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"stated on the loan application that Plaintiff was a 'White Male,' when she is in fact an African-American Female." (Complaint, ¶¶ 28 and 29).

Plaintiff's loan application is attached hereto as Exhibit "A." Although Ameriquest has redacted nearly all of the information from the application for privacy reasons, the Court can see that the application was signed by Plaintiff on January 20, 2005 at closing. The application discloses Plaintiff's income and all other information about her. Plaintiff, not Ameriquest, supplied the information on this document. By her signature, Plaintiff certified, among other things, that the information was true and correct as of the date set forth opposite her signature. Plaintiff does not allege that Ameriquest changed the information on the loan application surreptitiously after she signed it. Therefore, since <u>Plaintiff</u> certified to Ameriquest that the information about her employment income shown above her signature was true and correct as of January 20, 2005, there can be no claim against <u>Ameriquest</u> for allegedly "inflating" the information

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It is proper for the Court to consider the loan application signed by Plaintiff because the Complaint, in paragraphs 28 and 29, makes reference to it. The Eleventh Circuit has held that extrinsic documents can be considered in a 12(b)(6) motion where those documents are referred to in the Complaint and are central to the Plaintiff's claim. Sturm v. Marriott Marquis Corp., 85 F. Supp. 2d 1356, 1366 (N.D. Ga. 2000)(citing Harris v. Ivax Corp., 182 F.3d 799, 802 n.2 (11th Cir. 1999)); see also Brooks v. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida, Inc., 116 F.3d 1364, 1369 (11th Cir. 1997); 5th Bedford Pines Apartments, Ltd. v. Brandon, 262 F. Supp. 2d 1369, 1375 (N.D. Ga. 2003). The loan application is clearly "central to the Plaintiff's claim" in this action because it demonstrates that Plaintiff supplied the information to Ameriquest and certified it as true and correct. It is thus appropriate for the Court to consider this document on Ameriquest's Motion to Dismiss.

in the loan application. As to the obvious mistake of Plaintiff's race and gender, Plaintiff has not made any allegation, other than to point out the mistake, about how this harmed her in any way. Regardless, Plaintiff ratified all the information by certifying it true and correct, and any claim for falsifying the application should be dismissed.

### 9. Plaintiff has failed to state a claim for intentional infliction of emotional distress.

Plaintiff's purported claim for intentional infliction of emotional distress should be dismissed because Plaintiff has failed to allege the facts necessary to support such a claim under Georgia law. In order to recover for intentional infliction of emotional distress under Georgia law, Plaintiff must allege and prove: 1) that Ameriquest engaged in intentional or reckless conduct; 2) that the conduct was extreme and outrageous; 3) that there is a causal connection between the wrongful conduct and Plaintiff's emotional distress; and 4) that Plaintiff's emotional distress is severe. See Bute v. Schuller Intern, Inc., 998 F. Supp. 1473, 1478 (N.D. Ga. 1998); Blakey v. Victory Equipment Sales, Inc., 259 Ga. App. 34, 39, 576 S.E.2d 288, 293 (2002). Recovery for this tort has only been authorized only in situations where "the defendant's actions were so terrifying or insulting as naturally to humiliate, embarrass or frighten the plaintiff." Potts v. UAP-GA AG Chem, Inc., 256 Ga. App. 153, 157-58, 567 S.E.2d 316, 321 (2002)(conduct must be innately extreme and outrageous, and that "[i]t must be emphasized that major outrage in the language or conduct complained of is essential to the tort"). Whether a claim rises to

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the requisite level of outrageousness and egregiousness is a question of law to be determined by the court. <u>Bute</u>, 998 F. Supp. at 1478.

Indeed, this Court has recently held that "[s]tandard collection techniques cannot ordinarily support a claim for intentional infliction of emotional distress." Garner v. Academy Collection Svc., Inc., No. Civ. A. 3:04-CV-93-JTC, 2005WL643680, at \*6 (N.D. Ga. Mar. 11, 2005). Georgia courts have also expressly held that positions taken by business persons and/or "common everyday occurrence[s] in the business world . . . even if motivated by malice or an intent to harm plaintiff . . . [are] not inherently extreme and outrageous as is required for a claim for intentional infliction of emotional distress." Potts, 256 Ga. App. at 158, 567 S.E.2d at 321 (emphasis added).

In this case, Plaintiff alleged that she has "suffered severe emotional distress by the acts of the Defendant" – that is all. (Complaint, ¶¶ 8 and 42). Beyond the vague references in her Complaint that Ameriquest did something wrong, Plaintiff has failed to allege any specific facts regarding Ameriquest's alleged conduct – much less any conduct that would rise to the level to support a claim for intentional infliction of emotional distress. Plaintiff does not allege that she was threatened with bodily harm, nor has Plaintiff alleged that Ameriquest participated in any conduct that could even remotely be classified as "extreme and outrageous." Accordingly, Plaintiff's claim for intentional infliction of emotional distress fails and must be dismissed.

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# 10. Plaintiff has failed to plead her purported fraud claim with particularity.

Plaintiff's fraud claim fails because Plaintiff has failed to meet the heightened pleading requirements necessary to state a fraud claim under Fed. R. Civ. P. 9(b). To survive a motion to dismiss, allegations of fraud must satisfy the requirements of Rule 9(b), which provides that: "[i]n all averments of fraud or mistake, the circumstances constituting fraud or mistake shall be stated with particularity." Fed. R. Civ. P. 9(b). Rule 9(b) "serves an important purpose in fraud actions by alerting defendants to the precise misconduct with which they are charged and protecting defendants against spurious charges of immoral and fraudulent behavior." Ziemba v. Cascade Int'l, Inc., 256 F.3d 1194, 1202 (11th Cir. 2001).

Rule 9(b) is satisfied only if a complaint sets forth the following elements:

(1) precisely what statements were made in what documents or oral representations or what omissions were made, and (2) the time and place of each such statement and the person responsible for making (or, in the case of omissions, not making) same, and (3) the content of such statements and the manner in which they misled the plaintiff, and (4) what the defendants obtained as a consequence of the fraud.

Id. Rule 9(b) therefore requires plaintiffs to plead "such matters as the time, place and contents of false representations, as well as the identity of the person making the misrepresentation and what was obtained or given up thereby. [C]onclusory allegations that a defendant's conduct was fraudulent and deceptive are not sufficient to satisfy the

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rule." <u>Danielson</u>, 2006 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 52746, at \*15 (quoting <u>Parnes v. Gateway</u> 2000, Inc., 122 F.3d 539, 549-50 (8th Cir. 1997)).

Plaintiff in this case alleges only that Ameriquest "committed fraud by making certain representations to Plaintiff that they knew or should have known were false" and that "Plaintiff relied upon the representations to her detriment and was damaged." (Complaint, ¶ 27). Plaintiff has failed to describe the alleged misrepresentations made by Ameriquest, much less with any particularity, nor has Plaintiff described how she relied upon the alleged misrepresentations or how they harmed her. Accordingly, Plaintiff has failed to satisfy the basic requirement of alleging the elements of the tort, and certainly has not pleaded with any particularity and this claim must be dismissed.

### 11. Plaintiff has failed to state a claim for race/gender discrimination.

Plaintiff's race/gender discrimination is presumably supported by her allegation that Ameriquest "had a pattern of discriminatory practices-targeting borrowers on the basis of race, gender, national origin and provide those borrowers less favorable terms and conditions in loan contracts than would be provided but for the borrowers' race, national origin, age and gender." (Complaint, ¶ 39). Plaintiff does not allege that she was discriminated against, nor does Plaintiff adequately describe Ameriquest's alleged discriminating conduct. Plaintiff's race/gender discrimination claim fails because Plaintiff has not pleaded the necessary facts to support such a claim.

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#### 12. Plaintiff has failed to state a claim for "RICO."

In the Complaint, Plaintiff alleges that Ameriquest "engaged in a pattern of RICO activity" which is the only allegation that presumably supports her alleged RICO claim. (Complaint, ¶ 44). This allegation, however, is insufficient to support a claim against Ameriquest because Plaintiff fails to plead her alleged RICO violation claim with the requisite particularity required by the Federal Rules.

As with all averments of fraud, the circumstances constituting an alleged RICO violation must be stated with particularity. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 9(b). District Courts have consistently held that where a plaintiff files a civil suit under RICO and relies upon mail fraud as the alleged racketeering activity (which Plaintiff presumably relies on in this action), the plaintiff must allege "sufficient facts to put the defendants on notice of the charges of a scheme to defraud and the use of the mails ... in furtherance of that scheme."

Georgia Gulf Corp. v. Ward, 701 F. Supp. 1556, 1559 (N.D. Ga. 1987). To meet the heightened pleading standard, this Court has required the plaintiff to "state the time, place, and content of the misrepresentations, as well as who made the misrepresentations and to whom." Mills v. Fitzgerald, 668 F. Supp. 1554, 1561 (N.D. Ga. 1987).

The generalized, conclusory allegations appearing in Plaintiff's Complaint in this case clearly do not meet the particularity requirements necessary to state a RICO claim. Plaintiff fails to state the time, place, and content of Ameriquest's alleged misrepresentation. Indeed, Plaintiff fails to provide any specifics regarding Ameriquest's

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alleged conduct. Besides Plaintiff's generic assertion that Ameriquest made representations which were allegedly untrue, Plaintiff has failed to describe the "pattern of RICO activity" necessary to sustain such a claim. Accordingly, Plaintiff has not provided Ameriquest with the proper notice of her alleged RICO claim. Because Plaintiff cannot rely on conclusory allegations to support this claim, it therefore fails and must be dismissed.

### 13. Plaintiff has failed to state a claim for unjust enrichment.

Plaintiff's alleged claim for unjust enrichment is presumably supported by her allegation that Ameriquest "has been unjustly enriched at the expense of Plaintiff." (Compliant, ¶ 46). As with Plaintiff's other claims, she has failed to properly plead this claim because she has failed to plead any facts to show how Ameriquest has been unjustly enriched, or how Plaintiff has been harmed by Ameriquest's alleged conduct – two essential elements of an unjust enrichment claim. See Engram v. Engram, 463 S.E.2d 12, 265 Ga. 804 (1995)(unjust enrichment applies "where the party sought to be charged has been conferred a benefit by the party contending an unjust enrichment which the benefited party equitably ought to return or compensate for."). Without pleading more, Plaintiff has failed to state a claim against Ameriquest for unjust enrichment.

### 14. Plaintiff has failed to state a claim for injunctive relief.

In her Complaint, Plaintiff alleges that she is also "entitled to injunctive relief to prevent [Ameriquest] from foreclosing on her home" which is her only allegation with

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respect to her claim for injunctive relief. (Compliant, ¶ 48). For the same reasons that the other putative claims in the Complaint must be dismissed, the claim for injunctive relief must too be dismissed. Ameriquest also points out that Plaintiff filed the Complaint on April 7, 2006 but waited to serve it until November 29. Presumably, the need for injunctive relief has either passed or has become moot. Either way, Plaintiff has failed to plead any facts that would support enjoining Ameriquest from doing anything.

# B. If the Court is not Inclined to Dismiss the Complaint, the Court Should Order Plaintiff to Provide a More Definite Statement of Her Claims Under Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(e).

If the Court is not inclined to dismiss some or all of the claims in the Complaint, Ameriquest requests in the alternative, pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(e), that the Court order Plaintiff to re-plead and provide a more definite statement of any claims not dismissed. A party may move for a more definite statement if the complaint "is so vague or ambiguous that a party cannot reasonably be required to frame a responsive pleading."

See Byrne v. Nezhat, 261 F.3d 1075, 1128-29 (11th Cir. 2001).

While the requirements of pleading under the Federal Rules are "liberal,"... a pleader must at least provide his opponent with "fair notice of what her claim is and the grounds upon which it rests." [Cits]. Stated differently, a plaintiff should include in her pleading some brief factual description of the circumstances surrounding the acts or omissions upon which she bases her claim for relief.

Williams, 73 F. Supp. 2d at 1381.

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Before Ameriquest is required to respond to the conclusory allegations in the Complaint, this Court should require Plaintiff to set forth, with greater particularity, the actual claims that she is attempting to assert against Ameriquest. In addition, the Court should require Plaintiff to set forth the particular acts or omissions upon which she bases her claims for relief against Ameriquest. The interests of fairness dictate that, at the very least, Plaintiff should be required to set forth her claims with greater particularity before Ameriquest is required to frame a responsive pleading to the Complaint.

### V. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Ameriquest respectfully requests that this Court enter an Order dismissing Plaintiff's Complaint. In the alternative, Ameriquest requests that this Court enter an order requiring Plaintiff to amend her Complaint stating her claims with more particularity.

Respectfully submitted this 8th day of January, 2007.

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Kwende B. Jones

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(404) 815-3000

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### **CERTIFICATION OF COUNSEL**

I hereby certify that the foregoing MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO DISMISS has been prepared with Times New Roman, 14 point font, one of the font and point selections approved by the Court in LR 5.1B.

John O'Shea Sullivan

Georgia Bar No. 691305

shea.sullivan@burr.com

Kwende B. Jones

Georgia Bar No. 041155

kbjones@burr.com

### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 8th day of January, 2007, I electronically filed the foregoing MOTION TO DISMISS with the Clerk of Court using the CM/ECF system which will automatically send an e-mail notification of such filing to the following attorney of record:

Audrey Arrington 1456 Central Villa Drive, N.W. Atlanta, Georgia 30311

> John O'Shea Sullivan Georgia Bar No. 691305 shea.sullivan@burr.com

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					BILITIES (conf.	)		٠.		<del></del> -	
Schedula of Real Estate Owned (If add		ties are owne	d, use o	ontinuatio	n sheet.)						
Property Address (enter S if sold, PS if pen or R if rental being held for (ncome)	ing sale ▼	Type of Property	Presa Market		Amount of  Mortgages & Lie	n3   F	Gross Zental Income	Mort   P≥yr	gage nents	insurance, Maintonance, Taxes & Misc.	Net Rental Incom
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List any additional pames under which Atemate Namo	credit has	previously t	Sau vea	eryed in	d indicate appro me	opri.	ate creditor i	name(s	Accou	ut yerneer Occumi timbe	er(s):
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VII. DETAILS OF TRAN	SACTION				<del></del>		VIII. DECLAI	SAYDS	ae ·	<del></del>	
a. Purchase price	1.	0,0	o If you	u answe	"Yes" to any	que	stions a thro			Sorrew ar	Co-Bottow o
h. Alterations, improvements, repairs	-[	0.0	U30 (	continue!	tion sheet for e	xplo	nation.			Yes 14	<del>   </del>
c. Land (if acquired separately)		0.0	00 a A		ny outstanding ju						~l — —
d. Refinance (Incl. debts to be paid off)		0.0			een declared ban						₹/FF
e. Estimated prepaid items		ed pursuant	î	ou thereof	ned property force f in the last 7 yea		~ nhou or div	en 11116	or cottd	" 🔲 🗷	
Estimated closing costs     PMI, NTP, Syndhor Fee	04-02	ding Order			party to a lawsuit directly or indirec		been obligate	d on	ny bana		الله (معمالية
g. PMI, MIP, Funding Fee h. Discount (V Barrower will pay)	1	0.0									
i. Total costs (add items a through h		cted pursu:	ant 🖔	mobile) ho	icens, SBA icens, me loans, any m talis, including da mumber, if any,	orto L	age, financial age, financial	obligati	on, bond	i, or lean guar.	antos, ir "Yos,
. Subordinate financing	10 St	anding Ord	er 6	r VA case	number, if any,	end	reasons for th	e actio	r)	··^ 🗆 🗔	
k. Borrower's closing costs paid by Sefer	U4-0.		D Ir. A	tre vou on	esentiv delinosen	t or	la defauta ne	and Fed	formi deb	rt ar	
I. Other Cradits (explain)	1		_   💆	ny oustr usisateo? uestion.	loan, mortgogo, Li "Yes," givo o		g as ceacing	od In th	e biscs	qpug —— ——	مارہ <u>ب</u>
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<del></del>	→ Reda	cted pursu:	ınt "		permanent resider						
<ul> <li>Loan amount (exclude PMI, MIP, Funding Fee finance</li> </ul>		ording Ord	er n	esidenco.	tend to occupy ? If "Yes," compl	ota	property as question in be	your p saw,	nmary	التجا	<b>⅃</b> ╎└─┘ └─
n. PMI, MIP, Funding Fee (tranced	<u>역</u> 04-02		ᇵᄔᄩ	lave you	had en ownershi	þh	terest in a p	roperty	in the l	اسا لسا عدم	-1 :
a. Loan smount (sidd in & n)	Redau	ied pursua	nt (	1) What i	(ype of property scond home (SH) id you hold title t with your spouse	đđ	you own	principa	ni reside:		기 <b>'' '</b> '
p. Cash from/to Borrower	to Sta	nding Orde	:T (2	2) How d	d you hald this t with your spousi	ι'n	e home sol	dy by	ourself	(S)	-}
(subtract [, k, 1 & a from ()	04-02			(0)7	_			1101 1110	and her		<u> </u>
Each of the undersigned specifically represent and extens and agrees and arrived and	ents to Lone	ter and to 1 o	edare s	chief or e	AND AGREEMI	7.		ry atte	more T	ottoner randa	
that any intentional or neotoent misreoms	enteller of	his informati	os conte	doed to the	SPECTION IS UNIO	ang	COLLECT 92 OL	Line dal	in set for	rth opposite m	y signature er
to, fine or imprisonment or both under the "Loan") will be secured by a mortgage or d											
BRY Owner or services of the less may us	nger og berær	Ore purpose	OF COLAR	mus a usa	trentral mortgage	(O)	n; (5) Use prog	SELLA AN	De oca	SUpjed as indic	ated herein; (6
brauters, sorvicers, successors and assigns	med couling	eacconic re	the folio	mation o	SCHOOL DANK IT THE	i Lüi	en Brock appr	oved: (	7) the L	endor and its a	gents, broken
payments on the Loan become deligratent	the ourse	on announces of	f the Lot	e impresei	neu nemm snow	46	ange phor to	cianng	Ot me 1	Den; (B) in the	OVERT CHAC IT
made any covariantation or warrants are	on as integral	e reduced D	L MEAN! I'S	o) reme	Langer nor ILS &	gen	cs, prokers, ir	isuma,	20LAXAL	d, successors	or assigns ha
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this application were delivered containing m Borrower's Stonature	y adginui wr	itten signatur 9 Dato	<u>.                                    </u>								
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The sollowing information is requested by question reall expectantly, list housing and provides that a lender may discrimists not you have been a second of the control of ordered to note the information on the be must review the above material to assure to I lean applied for.]	ha Federal (	iovernment f	or contain	n types o	f loans related to		dwelling in or	der to	monkor	tha lender's c	omollanca will
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Continuation Sheet	Residential Loan Application	
Use this continuation sheet if you need more space to complete the Residential Loan	Bonower Griggs, Joyco M.	Agency Case Number:
Application. Mark B for Borrower of C for Co-Borrower.	Co-Barrower:	Lender Case Number;

I/Wo fully understand that it is a Fed as applicable under the provisions of	eral crime punishable by fine or imprisor Title 18, United States Code, Section 1	ment, or both, to knowingly make any false state	aments concerning any of the above facts
Borrowar's Signature:	Distri	Co-Borrower's Signature:	Date
· × (Sleven Ont 9	1/20/	05   X	
Reducted pursuant 6326 to Standing Order 1N (0002) 04-02		Page 4 of 4	Fredde Mac Form 55 01/04 Facile Mac Form 1003 01/04

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